

JUN 28 1963

Columbia University in the City of New York | *New York 27, N.Y.*

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

Schermerhorn Hall

21.6.63

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford University  
California

Dear Josh:

You may already know that the biological laboratories at Cold Spring Harbor, which were once operated as two separate entities by the Long Island Biological Association and the Carnegie Institution, will be amalgamated into a single unit. The new organization, to be known as the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory of Quantitative Biology, will be managed by a board of trustees from a number of cooperating universities and research institutes. The new scientific director, Dr. John Cairns, has recently arrived from Canberra and assumed his responsibilities. Just last week the latest Cold Spring Harbor symposium (<sup>Synthesis +</sup> ~~Structure and Function~~ of Macromolecules) terminated in an atmosphere of success and promise of future accomplishment. The summer courses are already underway and the all too small permanent staff (McClintock, Hershey, Umbarger and Margolin) continue their well known scientific activities.

It might appear that once again all is healthy and that without further ado we can expect these laboratories to continue to be a congenial and fruitful gathering place and a pioneer in science. We, the members of the management, are sure this is true but we are equally conscious of the serious financial plight reorganization has brought about. Government grants simply do not carry sufficient

sufficient overhead and there is practically no endowment at our disposal; the laboratory faces a large annual operating deficit and we see the necessity for considerable reconstruction. We will attempt to raise funds in as many ways as we can. But we need help.

If you feel, as I do, that the continuation of the biological activities at Cold Spring Harbor is worth while, we ask not only your good advice but would like from you a brief evaluation of what these laboratories have been and can be. Your statement may be used in our promotional activities and we <sup>know</sup> ~~think~~ that your scientific distinction will help make our case convincing.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large loop at the beginning of the word.

Francis J. Ryan  
Professor of Zoology.

FJR:bk